

APPENDIX 3 THE POTTERY

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A.3.1 The assemblage

The excavation produced 547 sherds of pottery from 68 contexts (Illus 26–28). The full pottery report is contained within the project archive to be deposited at the National Record of the Historic Environment of Scotland.

A.3.1.1 Scottish Post-Medieval Oxidised Ware

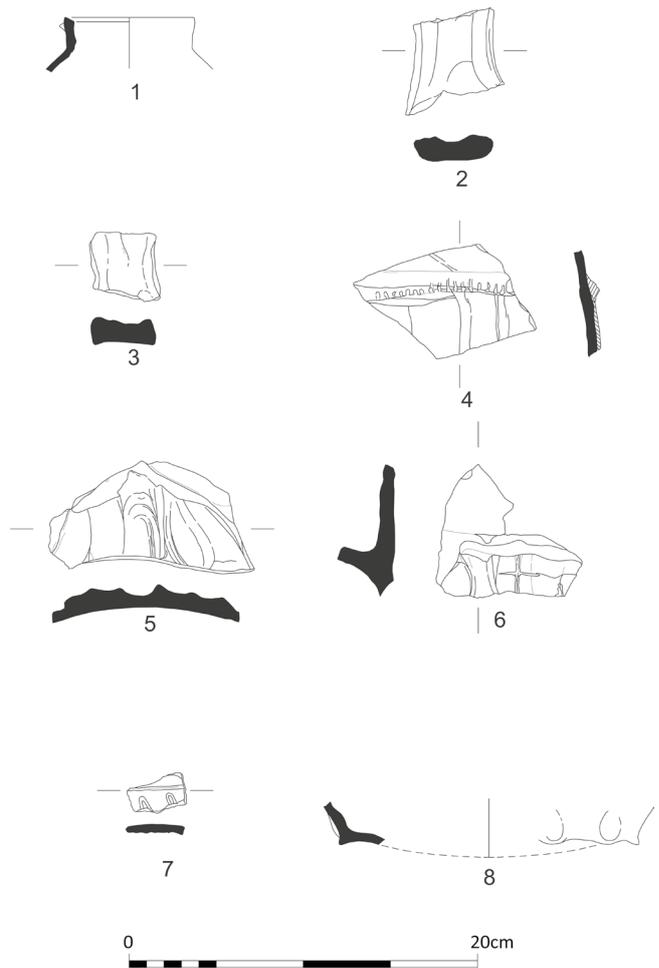
This later Scottish redware tradition dates from the 15th to 18th centuries and is often called ‘Throsk-type ware’ as it resembles the material being produced by the Throsk kiln site in the 17th and 18th centuries (Caldwell & Dean 1992). It was represented by 55 sherds, mainly from the graveyard and immediately underlying soils, but also within deeper deposits. Glazed jugs and skillets (cooking vessels) were the most common vessel forms represented in this fabric, although there were two bodysherds from small ‘drug’ jars from Contexts 170 and 328.

A.3.1.2 Scottish Post-Medieval Reduced Ware

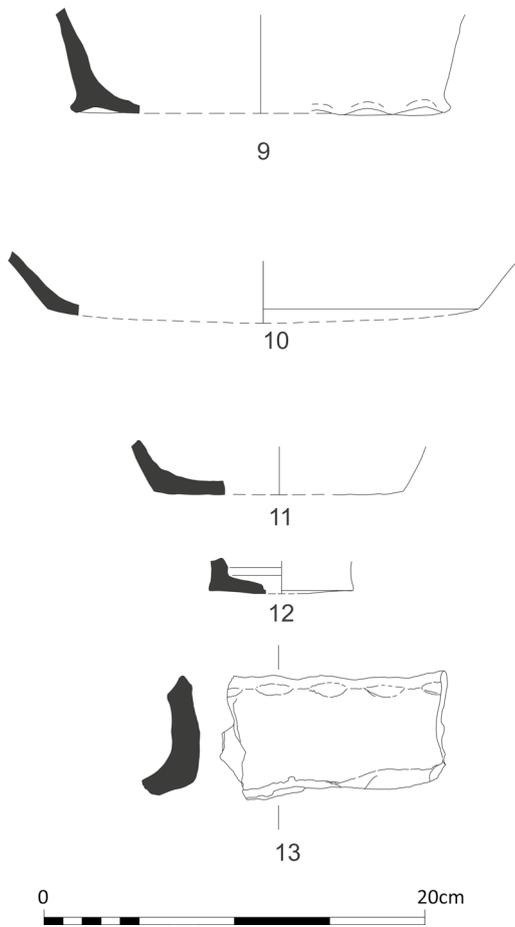
This fabric type was first identified in excavations at Stirling Castle in the late 1970s (Haggarty 1980). Essentially it is part of the Oxidised Ware tradition discussed above but it has been fired in an atmosphere with less oxygen which causes the fabric to reduce to a grey colour. There were 118 sherds in this assemblage, all from green glazed jugs; they were most commonly recovered from the graveyard and immediately underlying soils.

A.3.1.3 Scottish Redware

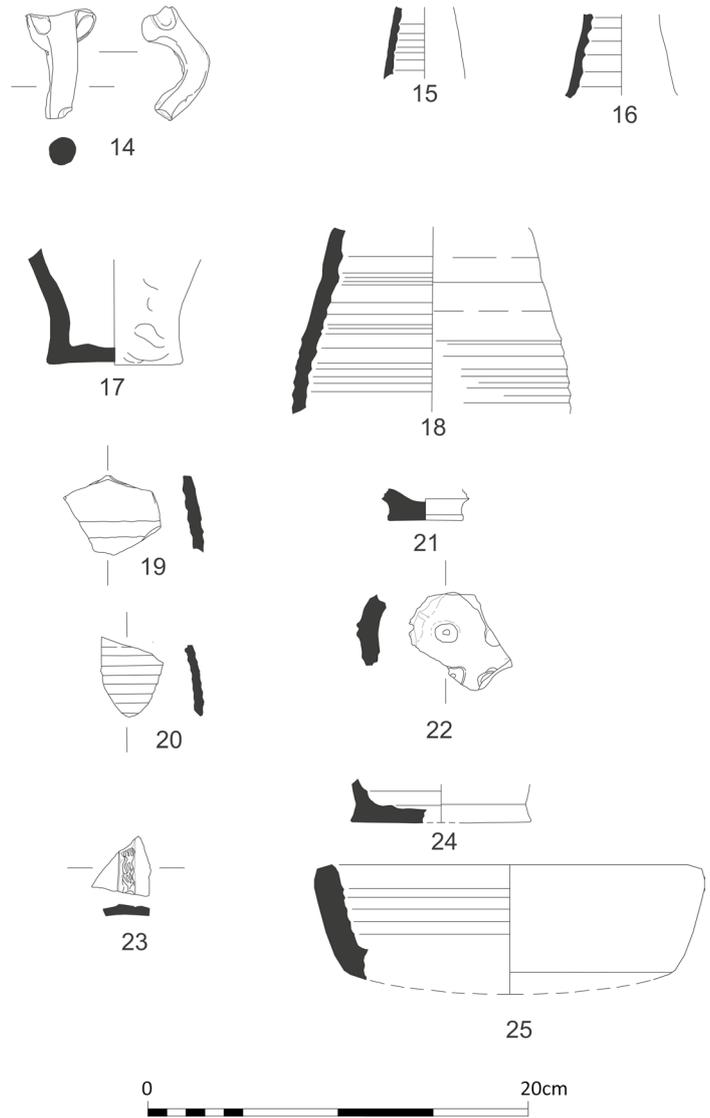
There were 20 sherds, mainly recovered from grave fills, in this fabric, which were all from glazed jugs. It has long been identified as a Scottish product, which was produced in the vicinity of the major river systems (Hall 1996; Chenery et al 2001; Chenery et al 2005; Haggarty et al 2011). From the late 12th/early 13th centuries it was the most common local product in the major Scottish burghs where there was not an adequate local supply of white-firing clay.



Illus 26 Scottish White Gritty Ware: (1) rim and neck from jar, SF133, Context 170; (2) strap handle fragment from green glazed jug, SF87, Context 101; (3) narrow strap handle fragment from green glazed jug, SF62, Context 123; (4) bodysherd with brown glazed raised applied strips from vessel glazed green brown, SF87, Context 101; (5) bodysherd and strap handle junction from green glazed jug, SF206, Context 352; (6) bodysherds and strap handle junction from green glazed jug with incised cross on junction, SF248, Context 405; (7) bodysherd from green glazed jug decorated with incised wavy lines, SF279, Context 432; (8) thumbed basal angle from jug splash glazed green, SF180, Context 328 (© AOC Archaeology Group)



Illus 27 Scottish White Gritty Ware: (9) slightly thumbed basal angle from jug splash glazed green, SF196, Context 349; (10) basal angle from unglazed jug, SF196, Context 349; (11) basal angle from green glazed jug, SF279, Context 432; (12) basal angle from green glazed jug, SF62, Context 123; (13) rim and basal angle from dripping pan internally glazed green, SF45, Context 101 (© AOC Archaeology Group)



Illus 28 Scottish Redware: (14) narrow rod handle from vessel splash glazed green, SF196, Context 349; (15) neck sherd from drug jar, SF321, Context 170; (16) neck sherd from drug jar with heavily rilled interior surface, SF190, Context 328; (17) basal angle and sidewalls from unglazed vessel, SF223, Context 376; Rhenish Stoneware (Siegburg): (18) joining bodysherds from rilled jug with ash brown glaze patches, SF217, Context 366; (19) slightly rilled bodysherd from vessel with external brown glaze patches, SF256, Context 417; (20) rilled bodysherd from unglazed vessel, SF256, Context 417; (21) basal angle from vessel glazed grey green, SF206, Context 352; Unidentified Fabrics: (22) fragment of lid, glazed green brown with raised ring and dot decoration, SF319; Context 124; (23) bodysherd from vessel glazed green and decorated with raised slashed strip and line, SF219, Context 368; (24) basal angle from vessel splash glazed green brown, SF111, Context 170; Industrial Vessel: (25) basal angle from unidentified industrial vessel, SF279, Context 432 (© AOC Archaeology Group)

A.3.1.4 Scottish White Gritty Ware

This fabric type made up the largest percentage of material from the Parliament House excavation, being represented by 252 sherds (46%). A minimum vessel count of 210 jugs, 29 jars and 4 other vessel types was represented by this group and it was consistently made up of thicker-walled vessels that would appear to date to the 14th and 15th centuries. There was a good example of a dripping pan from graveyard soil Context 101 (SF45) (Jones et al 2006). This date range covers the later end of the industry, although there were indications that earlier material was present from graveyard soil Contexts 170 and 123. The best excavated comparisons for this later group of Scottish White Gritty Ware are the finds from Bernard Street in Leith and from excavations in Inverkeithing (MacAskill 1983; MacAskill 1985).

A.3.1.5 Yorkshire Type Ware

There were six bodysherds from vessels glazed lustrous green from Contexts 110, 171, 209, 219 and 368, mainly grave fills. This fabric dates to the 13th/14th centuries and at that time appears to be the most popular imported pottery on the Scottish east coast (McCarthy & Brooks 1988).

A.3.1.6 German Stoneware

There were 23 sherds from vessels in this fabric from the production centres of Siegburg, Raeren, Frechen and Cologne (Gaimster 1997). These fragmentary sherds were all from glazed drinking vessels and dated to the 15th and 16th centuries.

A.3.1.7 North European Earthenware

There was a single sherd in this fabric from Context 386, a grave fill. This fabric was manufactured throughout Northern Europe and England from the 16th century onwards. There is no known Scottish production centre. It has been recovered from excavations at Kirkwall in the Orkney Islands (MacAskill 1982), Scalloway in the Shetland islands (Lindsay 1983), Pittenweem and Anstruther (Hall 1997) and Kelso. The Parliament House sherd was imported from the continent, possibly from Holland.

A.3.1.8 Earthenware

There was a single sherd of blue and white decorated Earthenware from the overlying rubble Context 100, which was probably of 19th-century date.

A.3.1.9 Industrial Vessel?

There was a single fragment from a vessel of uncertain function in a very smooth gritty fabric from deposits immediately under the graveyard, Context 432 (SF279). It may have been from the rim of a pottery kiln prop or vessel involved in another industrial process.

A.3.1.10 Unidentified

The 71 sherds that were catalogued in this class were too small for accurate identification to provenance.

A.3.2 Discussion

This assemblage was largely made up of very fragmentary sherds of pottery and it was not possible to reconstruct any meaningful profiles. The pottery would appear to date to the 15th or 16th century, although there were indications of earlier material being present.